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Principal wins national honour

Tom Reynolds says
award was a team
effort

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School needs a new name

General Vanier to
get new identity

18



A walk to
remember

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Kris Dubé Fort Erie Times

Ryan Cirillo, a Fort Erie Meteors alumni and member of the Niagara Regional Police Service, along with former Jr. B player Ed Lindberg, will be hitting the ice on Sunday for a charity game that will benefit local food bank, Community Outreach Program Erie.

Police and Meteors alumni to face-off for charity

Game will
benefit COPE,
starting at 7
p.m. on Sunday



Kris Dubé
Editor

The Fort Erie Meteors
have a special upcoming
weekend planned for the

community.

On Sat. Feb. 23, the Jr. B team will welcome the Thorold Blackhawks to the Leisureplex, for their final game of the regular season.

But it will also be a night to appreciate the team's many loyal and occasional fans, of all ages.

There will be games for kids and \$3,000 in prizes to be won.

Children under the age of 13 will be admitted for free for the annual kids' night event and through a sponsorship from Regional Roofing, everyone else will not have to pay to see the game.

The following day, Sun. Feb. 24, the first annual Meteors alumni game will be held, with former team members taking on the Niagara Regional Police

Service (NRPS).

Ryan Cirillo is a member of the NRPS who is co-ordinating the charity game, that also played with the Meteors in the early 1990's.

He also played in the Ontario Hockey League with the Niagara Falls Thunder and the Oshawa Generals.

Admission to the game is six dollars but with a non-

perishable food item donation, fans will get in for five dollars.

The event will benefit Community Outreach Program Erie.

"Anything we can do to give back to the community and help out the Jr. B team is always a fun event," said Cirillo.

The game will start at 7 p.m. at the Fort Erie Leisureplex.

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Principal recognized as one of the best in his field across Canada

➤ Former principal of Crystal Beach Public School thankful for accolade

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

"Growing up in Fort Erie was great. As a Fort Erie boy, I have a lot of great memories, I had a great education and a ton of mentors," said Tom Reynolds, principal of the DSNB Academy in Welland.

Reynolds has just been recently named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2013.

He went through his schooling in Fort Erie, and is still a resident in the Greater Fort Erie area.

"Being a part of the town and the community was always really important to me," he said.

“
The award isn't about me, it's about the amazing students and teachers we have at the Academy.”

— Tom Reynolds

Reynolds received the award, which recognizes the extraordinary contributions of dynamic education leaders in publicly funded schools.

Though he was awarded with the honour, he said it is all a team effort.

"The award isn't about me, it's about the amazing students and teachers we have at the Academy," he said. "It's really a team award."

Reynolds was the principal



Tom Reynolds

ect coordinator in getting the DSNB Academy started.

"We started the school because we all had a common vision," he said.

The DSNB Academy is

one of the most unique educational programs in Ontario. It's purpose is to support students in their journey to become the first in their families to graduate from college or university.

"Tom's steady leadership and unwavering belief in the program and its students has allowed the Academy to develop into a thriving place of learning where students truly believe they can achieve anything. He is a very deserving winner of this prestigious award," said Warren Hoshizaki, DSNB director of education.

As the first program of its kind in Ontario, there has been a great deal of public and media interest in the Academy.

"In addition to his role as the school's instructional leader, Tom has always represented the Academy with a great deal of sensitivity and optimism, which has helped

foster a shared sense of school pride among the students and staff," said Wes Hahn, superintendent of schools.

The Academy has been open for two years now, and hasn't had the opportunity to see any graduates yet. They started with Grade six and seven students and this year they are a school of pupils in grades six to eight.

As one of Canada's Outstanding Principals, he will attend a five-day Executive Leadership Training Program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. He will have the opportunity to dialogue and reflect on leadership issues with other renowned leaders from the educational, social, cultural and business sectors.

"I'm really looking forward to it. It's an amazing opportunity and I get to bring back with me what I learn," he said.

As he walked into his school students stopped him to chat as did other faculty members.

"Coming in here is amazing each and every day," he said.

Reynolds has taught in Fort Erie and was formerly the vice principal of Garrison Road School and the former principal at Crystal Beach Public School.

"Strong leadership is what makes Canada's education system one of the finest in the world," said Akela Peoples, president and CEO of the Learning Partnership.

"The Learning Partnership believes that principals who understand the importance of strong leadership in education should be recognized and their skill enhanced."

Reynolds will head to Toronto from Feb. 23 to 28 for the Executive Leadership Training Program.

Local bank accounts skimmed over long weekend, transactions traced to Malaysia

➤ Only five incidents reported to police

Kris Dubé
Editor

Several local people were shocked this past weekend, when they realized their bank accounts

“
If you find you have been skimmed, call your financial institution and the police.”

— Niagara Regional Police staff sergeant Dave Hunter

had been compromised. Although it appears that a large amount of local

financial institutions' clients were violated, only five reports were made to

the Niagara Regional Police by individuals.

"They all seem to be inherent to the Fort Erie area," said district commander and staff sergeant Dave Hunter.

In most of the cases, it is believed that unlawful transactions were made with local bank accounts on the other side of the world, in Malaysia.

"That seems to be com-

mon thread, in what has been reported to police," said Hunter.

He said people need to be aware of their surroundings when using their bank cards, for items such as pin readers, that are carefully installed by criminals on bank machines and debit devices. They should also keep a close eye on their accounts.

"If you find you have been skimmed, call your financial institution and the police," he said.

"People need to be aware of their card security at all times," he added.

One local financial institution in Fort Erie says the number of impacted clients from this fraudulent activity is unknown and that the matter is being addressed.



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Fashion in Fort Erie



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

On Saturday, the Bowen Road Women's Institute held a dessert and fashion show at the People's Memorial United Church in Ridgeway. The fashion show portion of the event was sponsored by Jay Set. In the photo are store manager Kyle Chamberlain, front left, Vivianne Cooney, Cathy Plab and Darlene Nelson. In the back row are Dena Sahs, Gail Augustine, Johana Keuf, Shawn Watson, Emilee Keuf, Kimberley Minoque and Kourtney Moore.

Police lay drug charges

Two people face drug charges following a raid at a Fort Erie home, Friday.

Niagara Regional Police executed a warrant at a Riceland Ave. address and seized a quantity of cocaine, heroin, fentanyl patches and \$1,260 in cash.

Police said the search warrant was a result of an investigation that lasted several months.

Charged with three counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of proceeds of crime is William Brock Campbell, 26, and Shannon Lloyd, 20, both of Fort Erie.

Campbell is also charged with failing to comply with a recognition.

Campbell was held in custody pending a bail hearing while Lloyd was released from custody with a future court date.

Collard dials up motion to prohibit electronic devices

Kris Dubé
Editor

It's common courtesy for audience members at council meetings to turn off their cell phones, but now local politicians will be asked to do the same.

At last Monday's regular council meeting, Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard made a motion that once approved, would prohibit any council member from communicating with one another through cell phones or any other electronic device,

while in session.

Another recommendation in his motion said that councillors should hand in their devices to the clerk before any closed session meeting.

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill asked Town clerk how these new rules would be enforced.

"My first thought and only thought is the honour system," said clerk Carolyn Kett.

Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero agreed that members of council having private conversations through

technology during meetings is not appropriate.

"I don't think there should be communication from one councillor to another," said Passero.

All members of council use laptops during meetings and Passero said he has become so used to this format, that he takes all of his notes during regular and closed meetings on the device.

He said handing it in before a closed meeting is similar to having a pad of paper and a pen confiscated.

"At what point do we stop?" Passero asked.

He also said it wouldn't be difficult for individuals to hand in one device and secretly keep one in another pocket.

"Are we going to start strip-searching members of council to make sure no one has electronic devices?"

Passero asked Collard if he has any reason to believe that misconduct in this regard has taken place, warranting his motion to hand in cell phones and computers before closed

meetings.

Collard said he doesn't believe anything wrong has taken place but that this is a way to prepare future councils should this issue arise.

"An ounce of prevention is worth an ounce of the cure," said Collard.

Passero feels debating the matter is not necessary and that there are other more important things council can spend its time and efforts on.

"If we're going to come up with solutions for things we don't even have prob-

lems with, then we better address a couple meetings," said Passero.

The clerk was also asked if other municipalities or corporations have made the same request and in response, she listed off several that do and other's that have not.

Considering the amount of situations where this has taken place, Ward 3 Coun. Bob Steckley said there is no reason why he couldn't support Collard's motion.

"It's nothing new, I think there is merit to doing this," said Steckley.



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Premier Wynne weighs in on Fort Erie issues

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Newly appointed Premier Kathleen Wynne, has been busy since taking over the position.

But she stands firm and continues to focus on the future of the Fort Erie Racetrack, and horse racing across Ontario.

Those familiar with the Fort Erie Racetrack will likely see a smaller operation if it goes forward. Wynne said the racing industry as a whole must get smaller to remain sustainable.

"I'm committed to ensuring a sustainable horse racing industry in Ontario, and I see that as being in keeping with the model proposed by our horse panel," said Wynne.

"My vision for horse racing is that it be sustainable, and in order to be sustain-

I'm committed to ensuring a sustainable horse racing industry in Ontario."

— Kathleen Wynne

able, it has to be smaller, that's the transition we're in right now," said Wynne, during a teleconference with Niagara media on Thursday.

Local MPP Kim Craitor has been focusing hard and pushing the issue of the race track in Fort Erie.

"Kim is a huge advocate for the track, and he's kept the caucus and me apprised of the situation since I've taken on this new role," said Wynne.

She hasn't had a chance to meet with the province's horse racing transitional panel yet, but it is on her agenda.

Craitor has been keeping Wynne up-to-date with the issues at the racetrack in Fort Erie, which is currently waiting for an invitation from the province to participate in the 2013 season.

There is still ongoing discussion between the race-tracks and the ministry of finance, but couldn't offer any details on when a deal might be reached.

In addition to the Fort Erie Race Track, Fort Erie has been hit hard with several closures. Currently the unemployment rate in Niagara is at 7.5 per cent, with youth unemployment being about 10 per cent.

Wynne said finding jobs and creating industry is a priority of hers. She is reaching out across the

globe and trying to attract businesses to open their doors in Ontario.

She said this means making sure that border crossings are in good shape so goods can come in and leave Canada.

Craitor has also lobbied for the south Niagara hospital to be built near Lyon's Creek Rd. and the QEW.

Wynne said the province has "no immediate plan" to decide on a recommendation from Niagara Health System supervisor Ken Smith to build a new hospital.

She said that it could be something considered down the road, but that there are more pressing health-care issues.

"The focus on the NHS is on continuing to create a well-governed and well-run hospital system."

Wynne said the province has already invested mil-

lions of dollars into a new state-of-the-art hospital in St. Catharines and has dramatically increased funding to hospitals since the Liberals came to power in 2003.

The debate over wind turbines has been a hot button issue for sometime, and wind turbines for the willing could be part of Wynne's approach to green energy.

She stated that her government would not step back from green energy, but she said that the voices of towns and residents must be heard as the projects go forward.

"I have made a commitment that, as we go forward, the procurement processes need to take municipal and community input into greater account," she said.

"I'm focused on the go-forward, how we make sure

these projects are going to willing communities. I want everyone to understand that I'm not backing away from green energy and clean, renewable energy. The reality is that we are leaders in terms of North America. We need to continue on that track," said Wynne.

Also impacting Fort Erie was the cut to the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit, a key housing benefit slashed as of Jan. 1. Wynne did not state if she would bring it back, but said the funding needs to be viewed against a backdrop of many such programs being amalgamated.

"Municipalities are getting that money in a different way. Those homelessness and housing programs will be delivered differently, and I hope more effectively across the province."

Don't hold breath for new Falls hospital: Wynne

Ray Spitzer
QMI Agency Niagara

The province has "no immediate plan" to decide on a recommendation from Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith to build a new south Niagara hospital near Lyon's Creek Rd. and the QEW.

During a conference call with Hamilton and Niagara reporters Thursday, Premier Kathleen Wynne said it's something to consider down the road, but there are more pressing health-care issues.

"The focus on the NHS is on continuing to create

a well-governed and well-run hospital system."

Wynne said the province has already pumped millions of dollars into a new state-of-the-art hospital in St. Catharines and has dramatically increased funding to hospitals since the Liberals came to power in 2003.

She said her government is interested in looking at the "whole health-care system" and transforming it so it's "sustainable for our children and grandchildren."

"We're really focused right now on...providing the right care at the right place at the right time."

She said that might not always be in a hospital

and her government will look to strengthen home-care needs for seniors and helping the elderly.

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said he's not disappointed with Wynne's comments because he hasn't had a chance to speak with her since she became premier.

"We will make a very strong business case to her — one that proves better health care at a better cost with a new hospital," said Diodati. "That's what the experts brought in by the province are saying and that's what we'll emphasize when we have a conversation."

Male charged with sexual offences

A 45-year-old Fort Erie man has been arrested and charged with a number of sexual offences

police allege took place during the summer of 2009 in Fort Erie.

Police say the incidents

were reported this January.

Police will not be identify the accused to protect the identity of the then 14-year-old victim.

The accused has been charged with two counts

each of sexual assault, interference and exploitation.

The accused was released from custody following a bail hearing Friday in St. Catharines court.

Region wants input on Greenbelt issues

Residents are invited to attend a public consultation session to voice their views related to Greenbelt issues and opportunities within Niagara.

The Greenbelt Plan, established in 2005, identifies where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological features and functions

occurring on this landscape. Niagara Region is undertaking a review of the Greenbelt Plan and the impact of its implementation on Niagara.

The project seeks to create an overall picture of the Greenbelt Plan in Niagara.

All members of the public with an interest in Greenbelt Plan implementation are invited and

encouraged to attend.

Urban Strategies Inc. consulting staff will facilitate the event with support from Niagara Region staff.

The event will be held on Feb. 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Centre for Conservation at 3922 Sixth Ave., in Jordan.

Those who plan to attend can register by calling (905) 685-4225, ext. 3459.

Grandmother planning fundraiser for boy with Cerebral Palsy

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Four-year-old Joshua Vethaak is full of energy, smiles and laughter.

Like any little boy he enjoys cartoons, being with his grandma and music.

Joshua faces many challenges, which began for him at two-weeks old. He began seizing and was rushed to Niagara Falls General Hospital, where he had 12 more seizures.

He was then taken to St. Catharines Hospital where he was sedated and underwent many tests as well as a spinal tap.

Joshua was put into a medically-induced coma for about a month-and-a-half while a team of doctors conducted painful and uncomfortable tests.

By the age of one, he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, which affects the left side of his body and brain the most.

He is also living with Global Development Delay, cortical vision (the brain doesn't send the message for him to see) and epileptic seizures.

His grandma, Maureen Richardson, who cares for him said she felt like something was wrong early on because his eyes never focused and he was unable to follow movement.

"I did sense that something was wrong with him, but you never really want to admit that to yourself," she said.

Richardson received a phone call, Nov. 9, 2011 that would change

her life. Joshua had become the victim of abuse, being admitted into McMaster Hospital in Hamilton with two broken arms and a twisted femur.

"From this moment on I knew in my heart, it was my calling as a grandmother to take baby Joshua under my wing and keep him safe."

Over the next two years, Joshua underwent many tests, and uses a standing frame, and wears ankle foot orthosis to straighten his legs and support his ankles.

Richardson tends to Joshua 24 hours a day, seven days a week and said that he brings tremendous joy to her life.

"Everyday is a new day and we stay positive. There's no negativity in this house," she said.

As Richardson tickled and played with young Joshua his laughter filled the room and his joy became contagious.

"He's a real joy, and he's such a light in my life," she said.

Though Joshua cannot speak, he tells his "stories" in his own way, communicating with his grandma and getting excited by dogs, music and noises.

"We like to believe that someday he will speak. He does make some sounds that sound like words," she said. She's been working with him to try and say "honey" and "angel."

Due to his injuries from the abuse, as well as his Cerebral Palsy, Joshua will never be able to walk. He also cannot support his head on his own, and will be receiving a new wheelchair in the near future that will allow him to have better head support.

Because Joshua was unable to eat, he had lost a lot of weight. Recently he had a feeding tube inserted and is adjusting well to it.

"He's up to 34 pounds now. I administer his medication through the feeding tube as well, so I know that he's getting the

proper amount."

Joshua loves being around other kids, becoming even more active when he's in their company. He will be attending Stevensville Public School next year to begin a new chapter in his life.

One of the challenges Richardson currently faces is lack of transportation for Joshua. She drives a two-door Jimmy and as he gets bigger it's harder to get him in and out.

"He loves car rides, but unless we're going to appointments, it's hard to take him out for them," she said.

She has started a fundraising campaign for Joshua called "Stars 4



Four-year-old Joshua Vethaak.

Joshua."

The goal is to raise \$50,000 for a wheelchair accessible van to help get him around. Any left over

funding will be donated to charity.

See Page 9

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opinion page

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Our Do You Remember feature had to be sent off early, so we weren't surprised that we did not receive any calls about the photo of the drummer. No need to let our deadline stop you though, as we always welcome any information about our photos.

Who are these children having such fun in the snow and where was this picture taken? There is one clue - stamped on the back is the date Feb. 20, 1974.

If you recognize these, please call the Museum at 884-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.on.ca.

Family grateful for overwhelming community support

Dear Editor,

How do I even begin to express my gratitude for the overwhelming support from this community, our family, friends and even complete strangers?

A while back I wrote a plea for the Times to run a story about my husband, James Ruegg. I hoped to raise awareness of our family's struggle with his Type 1 Diabetes as well as advertise the online fundraiser I had created to try to offset some of the high costs associated with it. Never in a million years had I expected the response that was coming our way!

I received a call from the Times almost immedi-

ately informing me that they were going to run the story.

Within hours of it's release, the support came flooding in. Online donations were adding up, people from our community, including complete strangers, were personally delivering gifts, and cards of support arrived in the mail. The response was overwhelming.

Separate fundraisers and events were planned all over the community and although permits prevented these events from happening, this did nothing to deter what was already set in motion. People found ways to help in every way they could.

Personal garage sales, families pooling together to make larger donations and prayers for our family at Sunday mass.

I don't know where to even begin to express the overwhelming gratitude I feel for the kindness and support from all of you who donated, prayed or even thought of us through this difficult time.

We often look for miracles in this world and overlook the very ones in front of our eyes.

A couple months ago, we faced an uncertain future. My husband was very ill, in need of surgery to remove all his teeth, unable to maintain his sugars and unable to work.

The bills were piling up and an enormous amount of money was required to take care of the medical expenses. That combined with trying to remain calm and plan a nice Christmas for our 3 girls was an incredibly trying challenge to face.

Now because of the generosity and selflessness of an amazing group of people, we are about to celebrate the best Christmas we've ever had!

Not only were we able to raise all the funds needed for the surgery, pay for my husbands beautiful new smile, ensure our bills get paid and have a beautiful Christmas for our children, but we received something

far more important.

Through all the hardships we've faced, all the horrible things we hear going on in this world and all the times we've each felt alone with our struggles, this experience has given me the gift of faith in people.

To me, that is priceless. That is our miracle.

I know despite what I write, I will never be able to express just how grateful, thankful and blessed I truly feel for all you amazing people. You have changed the lives of five people forever.

All the people within our community, the members of our family, our friends, complete strangers,

the residents of London who submitted our family for their Christmas sponsorship program, residents from Windsor, Buffalo, B.C. and all over Canada and U.S. who contributed, Crystal Beach School, the Trinity Life Church for all their hard work and hours of planning, and all the businesses who supported our cause. We thank you from the very bottoms of our hearts for everything you have done for us.

Ivana Ruegg and family



Do You Remember?

opinion page

Post office on list of locations that could be down-sized

An open letter to Greater Fort Erie residents,

By now, most of you will have seen media reports of Canada Post's plans for the future of the Post Office across Canada and must be wondering how much substance there is to these reports and how it affects the Fort Erie Post Office.

In January of this year, Canada Post informed the National Office of the Canadian Union of Postal

Workers that they are considering downsizing all Post Offices as part of a review which aims at going to a "smaller retail model" and provided a list of the first 66 offices that would be affected.

The Fort Erie Post Office on Jarvis Street, is on that list. One of two in the Niagara Region, the other being the Welland Post Office.

This new model would make our post office into little more than a hole in the wall, with one point-of-sale register, and all

product behind the counter.

This would result in longer wait times for you the customer.

When Canada post first implemented this new model in Chatham, Ontario, at the end of 2012 it cut the size of the post office in half, eliminated 15 positions, leaving one clerk to serve frustrated customers who have complained about long wait times.

The financial viability of our post office and service levels are likely to decline

if Canada Post decides to make the Fort Erie post office smaller. Furthermore, if revenue goes down, the Corporation could argue that our post office should close.

These are not idle threats that the Corporation is making, on February 15th the Sandwich Post Office was permanently closed.

They are also closing major sortation plants and have hinted at 3 or 4 day mail delivery service.

There are lots of options

Canada Post could consider instead of undermining a post office that is an important part of our community.

Please sign the petitions that are being circulated around town, call MYR to let him know you do not support this downsizing of the Fort Erie Post Office, and return the letter to Minister Fletcher (no postage required) which you will be receiving in the near future.

The Federal Postal system is a service for Canadian Citizens and the

Fort Erie Post Office is part of that system.

*Jennifer Young
President
Fort Erie Local 536
Canadian Union of
Postal Workers*

New premier has immediately destroyed trust in Niagara

An open letter to the Premier of Ontario,

You have just, in one single handed move, destroyed any trust that the people living in Niagara had in you as Premier of Ontario.

We had no respect or trust in the antics of Premier McGuinty and your Deputy Minister who is also the Minister of Health, Deb Matthews, however took the fact that she sent Kevin Smith to act as Supervisor of the NHS and to change the distrust of those living in Niagara who lost their healthcare, as a step towards helping those in Niagara.

Supervisor Kevin Smith listened to the people and came up with his report. A report that went along with the original much hated HIP (hospital improvement plan) but, one that would build a new hospital in Niagara that would replace the hospitals they were summarily closing. Supervisor Smith changed the hierarchy of the NHS with Acting CEO Sue Mathews, and

Chief Communications Officer Brady Wood, who have made a difference because they care about the healthcare and welfare of the people and make changes when and where they can.

The Yellow Shirt Brigade, of which I am part, have been fighting for our Canadian right to have equal accessible health care, as promised to all, since the threatened closure of the Douglas Memorial Hospital, which was a community hospital built by the people and maintained by the people of Fort Erie. We also fought for the Port Colborne Hospital which also was built and maintained by the people and was being closed. Both of these hospitals were operating in the black until they were taken from the people by the amalgamation of all hospitals.

Fort Erie fought this take over but lost the court case and our hospital.

I, personally, have been trying to work with the NHS to bring health care back to Niagara as I truly feel that we have to work together to get a new

modern hospital that can serve all, save lives, and bring in more doctors and specialists. We need a hospital that can handle emergencies and can perform treatments for all; a hospital that medical professionals and employees will be proud to work in, and have the equipment to work with. A hospital that will bring life back to the community and those living in it.

There is much that can be done by working on building the new hospital as proposed by Supervisor Kevin Smith, yet you, in one of your first media shows, took away not only our trust but our lives.

Kim Craitlor has tried hard to press our case to you and you have dismissed this one press conference, thus sealing his fate.

Shame on you Premier Wynne and your party as you not only let the people of Niagara down, you have also shot your messenger in the foot.

Your party is all about money and not about people and the safety of those who have to depend on you. Our once pristine, caring hospitals have not been maintained as

they were and changed into nursing homes. Money has been wasted on doing studies, surveys or other meaningless expensive enterprises, such as the obvious survey which proved that Niagara had lost trust in the healthcare and having Supervisor Kevin Smith sent to "make changes" that you now state are not going to happen.

It is the unthinkable. Give the hospitals back to the communities who had pride in them, worked hard to maintain them. Give the jobs back to the food services (dietary) the cleaning services, laundry services and not only help the community but also give back employment to all those who were phased out. The beautiful new hospital was originally built to replace the two aging hospitals in St. Catharines, and not meant to be the "Regional" hospital for all.

The Yellow Shirt Brigade will continue to fight for healthcare and we will continue to get the petition to have the new hospital built, and I personally will continue to work with the NHS to get a better health system for

Niagara.

I do however have great doubt in the sincerity and honesty of your party and your government.

We send aid to other countries, and condemn them for things that we are doing to our own people.

Premier Wynne your party has stirred up a hornet's nest in the Region of Niagara by ignoring the needs of the inhabitants, and bringing the hated HIP plan to fruition, in what appears to be a very underhanded way.

The Kevin Smith Report to the Minister of Health that we have all been waiting to have approved, which included building a new hospital and Urgent Care Centres, seems to be a sham that took months

to be written and then months waiting for approval which never happened. Your party has pitted communities against communities, friends against friends, and created a mild mini civil war in Niagara.

Is that the Liberal standard mode of operation, and what is the next axe you wish to grind?

Fort Erie has already lost industry, much tour-

ism as the Casino was closed and the Racetrack will likely be closed, many businesses have closed, employment is down, taxes are up, we have no hospital and many jobs were taken away, so houses are being put up for sale and people are leaving.

Yes we are fed up and have to speak out against what is happening. We need an answer to this letter so that we have answers for people who call asking for help, and people we ask to sign the petition for our promised hospital and urgent care centres.

Not a form letter that is generic and sterile. You were voted into office by people who trusted you to do what is best for them. Now that you are Premier you do not have only your constituents, you have all of us.

This is Canada and we exercise our right to speak out and be heard.

*Joy Russell
Yellow Shirt Brigade*

An informative walk through the neighbourhood

Kris Dubé
Editor

General Vanier Public School will have a new look to it when the 2013-14 academic year begins in September, but that doesn't change the fact that many students who live in the area, will continue to arrive for classes on foot.

On Saturday, an event

organized by the school, along with Bridges Community Health Centre and with help from the Fort Erie Active Transportation (FEAT) Committee, addressed how students and parents walk to school.

See Page 11



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

The Evans family, Eddy and Tawnya with their daughter Charity walking to General Vanier Public School on Saturday.

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Have you HEARD?

by Elaine Hilde, M.D., FRCPC
Registered by CASLPO
Doctor in Audiology, Audiologist

HEARING LOSS LINKED WITH DEMENTIA

According to a 12-year study involving men and women between the ages of 36 and 80, individuals suffering hearing loss are at increased risk of developing dementia as they age. Researchers found that even those with mild hearing loss had nearly twice the risk of developing dementia compared with those with normal hearing. The risk of dementia was found to increase three-fold for those with moderate hearing loss, and those with severe hearing impairment had a five-fold increase in dementia risk. While it is not yet clear whether hearing loss and dementia occur together or whether hearing loss leads to isolation that leads to dementia, there is no question that treatment with a hearing instrument provides clear benefits.

More research needs to be done on the correlation between cognitive decline and hearing loss, but researchers believe that the neurological stress of hearing loss, such as the constant effort required to decode conversations, may ultimately take its toll. We already know that people with hearing loss tend to avoid socializing, and social isolation is a risk factor for dementia. To schedule a hearing exam, please call **HEARAGAIN BALANCE & HEARING CLINICS** at 905-871-4242. Located at 860 Guelph Ave., Unit 12, we are open M-F, 9am-5pm. Most major insurance accepted. Please visit our website at www.hearagainclinic.com.

P.S. In the study mentioned above, the hearing loss/dementia link remained even after age and other potentially influential factors were removed from the equation.

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FORT ERIE CREDIT UNION

People Helping People

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forteriecu.com



The Stars 4 Joshua Fundraiser will take place June 22, in Fort Erie, though no location has been determined yet. They are looking

This will be the First Annual Stars 4 Joshua Fundraiser, and Richardson said it's something they hope to be able to have annually.

They are looking for sponsors and donors for the event. Any items such as gift baskets, food or any gift certificates are greatly appreciated.

Richardson said her focus of the event is on children and they will have a clown, bouncy castle, face painting, temporary tattoos, food and

There will also be two local bands performing and Fort Erie teen Justin Preston who is an advocate for anti-bullying will be supporting them and promoting the

There are various ways to support Joshua, from purchasing Stars 4 Joshua wristbands, or donating to their You Caring, or on Facebook. Joshua also has two group on Facebook.



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Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce & Small Business Enterprise of Niagara Falls
Invite you to attend the 8th Annual

International Women's Day Networking Luncheon Friday, March 8, 2013

• Shopping • Networking • Door Prizes • Delicious Lunch

Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre, 1485 Garrison Road, FE
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Sit down lunch served at 12:15 sharp!)

**Featuring guest speaker:
SANDRA BELL-LUNDY**

Internationally syndicated "Between Friends" cartoonist
Advance ticket sales only.

\$40+ tax Chamber members / \$45+ tax non-members

Please indicate choice of luncheon entrée at booking:
Grilled Haddock, Chicken Breast or Baked Penne
Lunch includes salad, vegetable, potato, entrée, dessert



905-871-3803 info@forterielchamber.com



Fort Erie Minor Lacrosse Association 2013 Season

REGISTRATION & CLINICS

February 23 & March 9 • 9 am - Noon

Fort Erie Leisureplex

Check online for clinic dates and times
or Facebook

Clinic requires Helmet, Gloves, Stick & Athletic Support

Division	Age Group	Birth Year	Cost Per Player	Early Bird Cost* Per Player	Clinic Times
Soft Lacrosse	3-4	2009 - 2010	\$75	None	
Paperweight	5-6	2007 - 2008	\$130	\$105	None
Tyke	7-8	2006 - 2006	\$200	\$235	1 - 2 pm
Novice	9-10	2003 - 2004	\$260	\$235	1 - 2 pm
Novice	11-12	2001 - 2002	\$260	\$235	2 - 3 pm
Barman	13-14	1999 - 2000	\$260	\$235	2 - 3 pm
Midjet	15-16	1997 - 1998	\$280	\$255	2 - 3 pm
Intermediate	17-21	1992 - 1996	\$280	\$255	2 - 3 pm

* Early bird discount applies when paid in full by April 1, 2013

- New players are required to bring a copy of their birth certificate upon registration
- Registration fees include the Provincial Championships, the year-end banquet and one tournament (if a tournament is available)
- Games played at the Fort Erie Leisureplex, Fort Erie, Ontario (Canada) - Kingston Arena
- Fees are non-refundable after player's first league game
- Soft Lacrosse is house league (one try instruction only)
- Paperweight is house league but willing to travel for scheduled exhibition games (fee includes a year end tournament in July)

Contact: Pete Jamieson at 289-271-8102, 289-228-9123 or pmj1@live.ca

Contact: Howard Hill at 905-894-0718

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Talented at tricks



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Cobbler Jay, a popular street performer, shows students, parents and teachers his skills at General Vanier Public School last week.

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Active Transportation Committee's mandate encourages people—power

From Page 8

What route they take and whether or not there is an alternate way that would save time, issues involving infrastructure... there were a handful of areas that parents and students were asked to consider when walking to the school for the educational session.

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill is council's representative on the FEAT committee and its mandate is something that definitely applies to events like Saturday's.

"Our committee helps foster that by exploring alternate ways of transportation, people can get out and exercise," said Hill.

We focus on creating communities that promote safe, people-powered transportation," he added.

Concert tomorrow for youth

On Feb. 22, hundreds of teenagers in Fort Erie will descend on the Fort Erie Secondary School for a concert headlined by Contemporary Christian band "To Tell" and to hear a message loud and clear. That message is "Ur Worth More."

The Salvation Army in Fort Erie has partnered to run on this event in order to prevent young people from taking their lives and self harm among teens in the area.

With a desire to expose the truth behind the lies that teens often believe about themselves, co-ordinator Nicole Smith and her team will present a positive, faith based message on the true value of the life of every single teen in the community through music, comedy, drama and art.

The free concert takes place at 7:30 p.m., inside the Fort Erie Secondary School auditorium. For more information, visit www.urworthmore.com.

Have a story idea?

The Fort Erie Times encourages its readers to submit story ideas they might want to see in our Thursday and online editions. Photos can also be

submitted from various local events.

Feel free to contact editor Kris Dubé at (905) 871-3100 ext. 207 or at kris.dube@sunmedia.ca



Fort Erie Elementary Public School

Rose Seaton Public School

General Vanier Public School

**Three great school communities coming together...
and we need your help
to name our new school!**



The District School Board of Niagara will be starting major construction at the General Vanier Public School site very soon for the students of General Vanier Public School, Rose Seaton Public School and a portion of students from Fort Erie Elementary Public School.

Your help is needed to name this new school!

To find out more and submit your suggestions, visit:

nameyourschool.dsbn.org

Submission forms are also available at the Fort Erie Public Library and Fort Erie YMCA

Submissions will be accepted until March 3, 2013



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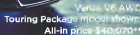
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Kinsmen Week



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Members of the Fort Erie Kinsmen Club, Fort Erie Kinettes and Stevensville Kinettes kicked off the week dedicated to their service clubs, with a flag-raising at Town Hall on Friday. On Wednesday, Kinsmen Clubs all over Canada celebrated 90 years of existence.

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KRIS DURÉ Fort Erie Times

Mike Pychel, treasurer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, Darlene Hazlett, director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, Mayor Doug Martin, Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor, Yvonne Hopkins, Niagara representative of Ontario Trillium Foundation, Mike Leone, president, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara and Bruce Smith, director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara at Town Hall last Friday.

Merger between two agencies completed

On Friday, representatives from the newly merged Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara met with local officials and Yvonne Hopkins, a volunteer with the Ontario Trillium Foundation to talk about the future.

This is an exciting time for the group, which is an amalgamation of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara and the Greater Fort Erie Big Brothers Big Sisters Association.

Working together represents an opportunity to help even more young people and maintain focus on the efficient delivery of programs.

In 2011, the two groups received a \$75,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium

Foundation to help with the merger. Funds from the Foundation were used to hire a facilitator to navigate the process, hire a fundraiser, administrative assistant, legal and accounting costs and help with other costs involved with creating the roadmap for bringing the organizations together seamlessly.

Several committees worked under the guidance of a consultant to complete the analysis which was presented to both agencies' Board of Directors for review. In July 2012, both Boards approved a motion to merge the agencies followed by approval by the agencies' members in September and in December, the legal component was completed.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters is an organization that is very dear to my heart," said Kim Craitor, MPP for

Niagara Falls. "By amalgamating into Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, they can reach so many deserving young people and really make a difference in their lives and that's what it's all about, making a difference! Thank you to Yvonne Hopkins and the Ontario Trillium Foundation and all those involved in making this great organization even better!"

"Board members reviewed and completed the merge process with one main focus, to continue to fulfill our mission and mandate of meeting the needs of the children within our communities to the best of our ability through professional mentorship programs while ensuring we are operating as cost effective and efficient as possible," said Mike Leone, President Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara.

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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie Meteor Cameron Fairgrieve is greeted by young fans before last Saturday's game. Three local schools (Rose Seaton, Fort Erie Secondary and Fort Erie Elementary) paid for their students to go to the game.



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OPEN MIKE NIGHT WITH JIM YORFIDO

Saturday, February 23rd, 2013 7pm - 11pm

Open to the Public
No Admission

Fish Fry Every Friday 3:30p.m - 6:30p.m

Call the Branch for Hall Rental Fees: 905-871-9566

130 Garrison Road, Fort Erie

Phone: 905-871-9566 for more information.

Public Notice

Public Meeting for the
Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools
Accommodation Review
will be held at:

RIDGEWAY-CRYSTAL BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
576 Ridge Road, Ridgeway, Ontario

Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Schools involved in the review area are:
Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7P4
Phone: 905-641-1550 Website: www.dsbn.org

Chair: Kevin Maves Director: Warren Hoshizaki

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<p>Panasonic All Digital Cordless Phone & Answering System</p> <p>• Large LCD display • Large LCD display • Large LCD display</p> <p>\$69 <small>ONLY</small></p>	<p>LS-1501 TV Stand and Component Cabinet</p> <p>• 15" LCD TV • 15" LCD TV • 15" LCD TV</p> <p>\$178 <small>ONLY</small></p>	<p>Panasonic PT-AB8000 3D Projection 120" Screen Bundle</p> <p>• PT-AB8000 3D Projection • 120" Screen • 2 pair 30 glasses 3D Movie • 2 pair 30 glasses 3D Movie • 2 pair 30 glasses 3D Movie • 2 pair 30 glasses 3D Movie</p> <p>\$3998 <small>ONLY</small></p>
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<p>Universal 16 Universal Remote Control</p> <p>• Universal remote control • Universal remote control • Universal remote control</p> <p>\$19 <small>ONLY</small></p>	<p>16" 500 Watt Subwoofer + Ported Sub Box</p> <p>• Superb bass • 16" Woofer • 500 Watt</p> <p>\$298 <small>ONLY</small></p>	<p>Panasonic Smart MT Series 3D LED HDTV</p> <p>• 3D LED HDTV • Smart, Elegant Design • 3D LED HDTV</p> <p>\$238 <small>ONLY</small></p>
<p>Panasonic All Digital Cordless Phone & Answering System</p> <p>• Large LCD display • Large LCD display • Large LCD display</p> <p>\$69 <small>ONLY</small></p>	<p>LS-1501 TV Stand and Component Cabinet</p> <p>• 15" LCD TV • 15" LCD TV • 15" LCD TV</p> <p>\$178 <small>ONLY</small></p>	<p>Panasonic ETS Series LED HDTV</p> <p>• LED HDTV • LED HDTV • LED HDTV</p> <p>\$178 <small>ONLY</small></p>

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School needs a new name

Kris Dubé
Editor

Once General Vanier Public School undergoes a \$4.6 million renovation, it will re-open with a new name.

Earlier this year, it was announced that the provincial government and the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) would be investing into the local elementary school on Torrance Street.

Last year, an accommodation review process determined that Rose Seaton Public School and Fort Erie Elementary School will close after the 2013 academic term.

Returning students will attend either General Vanier or Garrison Road Public School.

Starting Feb. 19, the process of creating a new name for the school will begin and the community will have until Mar. 3 to make submissions.

A committee has been struck that includes parent, student, board representation from all three schools (General Vanier, Fort Erie Elementary, Rose Seaton).

Principals from these schools and a local historian will be a part of the initiative and after submissions are examined, the top three choices will be handed to the school board who will ultimately decide on the new name.

In the end, the school will

be re-named under a set of guidelines laid out by the DSBN.

It could honour a person or event that has made a significant contribution to society, recognize a historical name that at one point in time applied to the region in which the schools are located, identify the communities served by the school, or by using the name of the street that the school is located on.

General Vanier Public School was given its name in 1967 after it was built as Torrance Street Public School in 1955.

Paper entry forms will be placed at various locations this week throughout Greater Fort Erie such as the the library and Leluxplex.

One name that will be submitted for consideration by the Royal Canadian Legion, Br.71, is Cpl. Albert Storm Public School, after the Fort Erie native who died in combat while in Afghanistan.

The legion has approached Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero to pitch the idea.

He said it is not the responsibility of the Town to oversee the school's re-naming, but agrees it would be a good fit. Storm was a student at the local school during his childhood.

"The municipality has no veto power or influence, but I am comfortable with that name, considering he was a student at General Vanier," said Passero.

Online submissions can be made at:

www.forterie.dsbm.org

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Saturday March 30

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Wednesday April 10

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Sunday April 21

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Saturday May 11

St. Jacobs with time at the market and downtown shops. (buffet lunch included) **\$85.00 per person**

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TOP ASSOCIATES

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Student representatives of a committee that will oversee the process of coming up with a new name for General Vanier Public School are Kyle Kraus, Kimberlin Kiss and Grace Dobbie. Submissions for the school's future new name can be made online or by picking up a form at various locations around town.

CHOICE INDEPENDENT DENTAL HYGIENE



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Thank you to all who helped make this years G.F.T.H event a success, including Bella Pizza.

A big thanks to Colleen Hearn R.D.H and Janet Gigone for all of their help.

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Committee waits on fee waiver freeze at Region

Jeff Bolichowski
QMI Agency Niagara

The last chance for developers to seek a break from Niagara Region on their building costs turned out to be not so final after all.

Regional council's public works committee pushed back a move that would see them stop granting breaks from development charges until they find a funding source. Instead they granted just over \$32,000 in relief to two churches, with two more projects still to be weighed.

"It is a concern because they're all good causes, but (are there) more that have paid development charges that are going to come forward now?" said Regional Chair Gary Burroughs.

All the church projects are all good causes, he said. But "somebody's paying the bill. That's my concern."

Councillors agreed to pay back just over \$27,000 in fees for the Vineland Free Reformed Church's new building.

Church spokesman John Kamphuis said the church's entire building should be considered a place of worship, and they should be charged under the by-laws from 2009, not the updated development charges council passed in 2012.

The committee also waived about \$5,200 for Calvary Gospel Church to build a pole barn, where they planned to store supplies for their annual nativity play.

Another request, from a farmer seeking \$6,800 to cover a farm bunkhouse - was sent back for a staff report.

Bigger yet was a request from a numbered company seeking to build student housing in Thorold. The committee hashed out the matter in camera and will set a date for a hearing, but Burroughs

said they're disputing about \$1 million of the \$2 million in development charges they're facing.

Giving the churches a break could make for savings for the Region's social services department in the long run, figured St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrovski. He said churches help the community without incurring the labour costs the Region does.

"I can't imagine... what the costs would be if our social services folks had to account for what the churches do across Niagara," he said.

"As the scriptures say: 'The least of these.' I'm very happy to support helping the least of these through the church."

Lincoln Coun. Mark Bylsma, who moved the relief proposals for both churches, said coming to council was the Free Reformed Church's last resort.

He said considering their request under the

old by-law wouldn't change the new charges councillors approved last year.

"We're not trying to change the 2012 by-law. However, I'd love to see that re-opened," he said.

The requests came after council waived development charges for industry early this year.

Burroughs said he couldn't blame developers for coming in seeking relief. But he said council should either abide by its development charges by-

law or not have one.

"To me, I still don't understand the money," he said.

"This is the second round (of requests). Maybe there will be a third round of a different type."



Niagara Region council file photo.

'A great deal of work has been done'

Ray Sptieri
QMI Agency Niagara

Residents will soon know where the Niagara Health System recommends two future urgent-care centres and who will be on the next board of directors at the hospital agency.

"A great deal of work has been done to examine most appropriate sites based on the Lyons Creek (Rd.) and QEW option selected for a new hospital, and we continue to work with the Region to determine the best location."

Seniors Service Seminar

The Lions Douglas Heights Seniors Centre is hosting a Seniors Service Seminar:

Tuesday March 5th

11am to 2 pm

265 High Street, Fort Erie
Come and learn about some of the seniors services in our community.

Have a soup and sandwich lunch at 12:30 pm for \$5.00. Tickets much be purchased at the Centre before Friday March 1st
For more information call 905-329-5140

tions for access to urgent care for the public and for our partners at Niagara (Emergency Medical Services)," said NHS supervisor Kevin Smith.

He expects the recommended locations to be announced "within a month."

He said geographic planners are being consulted. Consideration is being given to travel time, weather patterns, population density and road access relative to where the new St. Catharines hospital is and where the south Niagara hospital in Niagara Falls is being recommended.

Smith plans to meet with a community-based nominating committee in the next week or two to review a short list of candidates that will ultimately form the next NHS board.

He said the committee has received about 60 applications.

"Within the next month, I'm hoping for the board membership to be hammered down," said Smith. "Then, we will search for our chief (executive officer) and chief of staff."

Meanwhile, Smith didn't take exception to Premier Kathleen Wynne telling Niagara reporters last week she has no immediate plan

to consider the supervisor's recommendation to build a new hospital to serve the region's southern tier.

Wynne said the first priority for the NHS is on developing a "well-governed and managed hospital system." Once that's achieved, "we can have a conversation about further capital investment."

"There's not an immediate plan (to build the new hospital)," she said, adding the government has already invested in the new St. Catharines hospital.

Smith said he didn't see Wynne's reaction as pouring cold water on his recommendation.

He said he understands why the new premier would want to see how the new St. Catharines hospital, scheduled to open next month, operates and how the consolidation of certain services plays out.

Prior to approving a new hospital, Smith said Wynne wants to ensure new board members subscribe to good governance measures, including community co-operation and outreach.

"We need to get some things happening first," said Smith, adding a compelling case for a south Niagara hospital can then be made.

SAVE A TREE!

Please Recycle Your Paper!



Fort Erie Meteors netminder Connor Visca plays the puck behind the net during Saturday's loss at home to the St. Catharines Falcons.

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

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this
out



Rise of the Guardians
Saturday, February 23, 2
pm. Centennial. \$2.

Rise of the Guardians is an animated family adventure featuring the voice talents of Chris Pine, Isla Fisher, Alec Baldwin and Hugh Jackman.

Multicultural Celebration
Wednesday, February 27, 7
pm. Centennial. Free.

Fort Erie Multicultural Centre is a great resource for both newcomers and the community itself. Everyone can benefit when students and staff of the Multicultural Centre present an evening dedicated to sharing their culture, dress, music and stories. Open to the public; all ages.

Meteors get one of six possible points on weekend

➤ This Saturday's home game the last of regular season

The Fort Erie Meteors were hoping to squeeze out at least one point this weekend, which was action packed with three games.

The local Jr. B team lost 5-3 to the St. Catharines Falcons at the Leisureplex on Saturday night.

On Sunday, they visited the Welland Jr. Canadians and were beaten 6-2.

On Monday, the Meteors were able to grab a single point, losing to the Welland Jr. Canadians in a shootout at the Leisureplex.

The team's current record is 17-30-2, putting them in the seventh of eight spots in the golden horseshoe conference. The Meteors with 35 points, will hold that position going into the post season, since they cannot catch Stoney Creek who is in sixth place, even if they won all three remaining games.

The Buffalo Blades sit in the basement with a 1-48-1 record and three points.

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NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF OFFICIAL PLANNING AMENDMENT

Planning Act, 1990, c. P 13, ss.17(35), O.Reg. 543/06

APPLICANT: TOWN OF FORT ERIE
FILE #: File No. 356902-0072
PROJECT: OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT 10 - PROPOSED SITE SPECIFIC
MAPPING AND POLICY HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS TO
TOWN OF FORT ERIE OFFICIAL PLAN

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed By-law No. 16-13 being a By-law to approve **Amendment No. 10** to the Official Plan for the Fort Erie Planning Area, on the **11th day of February 2013** under Section 22 of the Planning Act.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board in respect of the by-law by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie not later than the **13th day of March, 2013**, a notice of the appeal setting out the objection to the by-law, the reasons in support of the objection and the specific part of the proposed Official Plan Amendment to which the appeal applies. Any appeal must be accompanied by the Board's fee of \$125.00. A certified cheque or money order in this amount made payable to the Minister of Finance must accompany the Notice of Appeal.

Any Notice of Appeal should be mailed to:

Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk

Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Town of Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S6

The Regional Municipality of Niagara has delegated the approval authority of Official Plan Amendment 10 to the Town of Fort Erie and the decision of Council is final if a notice of appeal is not received before or on the last day for filing a Notice of Appeal.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a decision of the Municipality to the Ontario Municipal Board. A Notice of Appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a Notice of Appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. An explanation of the Purpose and Effect of the By-law may be found below. The completed By-law is available for inspection in the Clerk's office during regular office hours and the location of further information on the proposed amendment is described below.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the plan was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

Official Plan Amendment 10 (OPA 10) is a compilation of site specific mapping changes and a policy change. OPA 10 is being processed to align certain site specific Official Plan designations on Schedule A of the Official Plan with previous approvals and/or existing zoning or existing use of land, as well as improve and clarify an existing site specific policy.

Certain site specific amendments reflect mapping refinements to Schedule A of the Official Plan to ensure the Environmental Protection Area (EPA) Designation matches the Provincially Significant Wetlands on Schedule C and Hazard Lands identification on Schedule C1. The proposed change will result in the application of either the adjacent designation with an Environmental Conservation Area (ECA) Overlay to reflect the wooded and vegetated areas, similar to other similar areas in the Town or an appropriate designation to reflect the existing use.

A site specific policy text change is proposed for the lands designated as an Urban Entertainment Area on Schedule "A" of the Official Plan. Given the status of the horse race track, the amendment is proposed to provide greater flexibility in permitted uses for the future development of this important area within the Town.

IMPLEMENTATION

INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE AMENDMENT

Information pertaining to the proposed Official Plan Amendment application and the approved Official Plan Amendment No. 10 (OPA 10) is available at the Community and Development Services Department, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive or by visiting the Public Notices Section of the Town's Web Site at www.forterie.ca and clicking on the link for Notice of Council Approval for Official Plan Amendment 10 (OPA10).

Information can also be obtained by calling Dave Heyworth, Manager-Land Use Policy (DHeyworth@town.forterie.on.ca) at 905-871-1600, ext. 2504

OTHER APPLICATIONS

Official Plan Amendment 11 is one of three housekeeping amendments being processed by the Town of Fort Erie. The other two housekeeping amendments are Official Plan Amendment 10 and the Housekeeping Zoning By-law Amendment. Information on these other housekeeping amendments can be found at the town's website www.forterie.ca and then clicking the red "Zoning and Official Plan" banner on the Home page.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.

CAROLYN KETT, TOWN CLERK

ckett@forterie.on.ca

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL PLANNING AMENDMENT

Planning Act, 1990, c. P 13, ss.17(23), O.Reg. 543/06

APPLICANT: TOWN OF FORT ERIE
FILE #: File No. 356902-0073
PROJECT: OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT 11-
PROPOSED HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT TO
TOWN OF FORT ERIE OFFICIAL PLAN TO PERMIT AN
ACCESSORY APARTMENT IN A SINGLE DETACHED DWELLING
IN AGRICULTURAL, RURAL AND RURAL
RESIDENTIAL DESIGNATIONS.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed By-law No. 17-13 being a By-law to adopt **Amendment No. 11** to the Official Plan for the Fort Erie Planning Area, on the **11th day of February 2013** under Section 22 of the Planning Act.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or public body will be entitled to receive notice of the decision of the approval authority if a written request to be notified of the decision is made to the Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Niagara, 2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario, L2A 4T7, before the approval authority to which this official plan amendment is being submitted. Anyone requesting notification must include complete contact information.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

Official Plan Amendment 11 proposes to permit an accessory residential unit within a single detached dwelling within the Agricultural, Rural and Rural Residential designations of the Official Plan subject to specific conditions. The Official Plan currently permits an accessory apartment unit within existing single detached dwellings in the Urban Residential designation only, subject to certain conditions. The Zoning By-law currently allows these accessory units within existing dwellings within agricultural, rural and rural residential zones subject to specific zoning provisions. This amendment aligns the Official Plan policies with the zoning by-law requirements relative to the subject use.

INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE AMENDMENT

Information pertaining to the proposed Official Plan Amendment application and the adopted Official Plan Amendment No. 11 (OPA 11) is available at the Community and Development Services Department, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive or by visiting the Public Notices Section of the Town's Web Site at www.forterie.ca and clicking on the link for Notice of Council Adoption for Official Plan Amendment 11 (OPA11).

Information can also be obtained by calling Dave Heyworth, Manager-Land Use Policy (DHeyworth@town.forterie.on.ca) at 905-871-1600, ext. 2504

OTHER APPLICATIONS

Official Plan Amendment 11 is one of three housekeeping amendments being processed by the Town of Fort Erie. The other two larger housekeeping amendments are Official Plan Amendment 10 and the Housekeeping Zoning By-law Amendment. Information on these other housekeeping amendments can be found at the Town's website www.forterie.ca and then clicking the red "Zoning and Official Plan" banner on the Home page.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.

CAROLYN KETT, TOWN CLERK

ckett@forterie.on.ca

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EXCLUDED. OTHER RETAILER CHARGES MAY APPLY.***

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TOWN OF FORT ERIE

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EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFORMATION 905-871-1600

RADIO EMERGENCY INFORMATION 91.7 FM - 105.7 FM - 610 AM



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY ON A BOARD OR COMMITTEE

Here is another opportunity to lend your time and talents to your community. The Town of Fort Erie is served not only by elected officials but by volunteers as well through appointment to its various boards and committees.

The Town is looking to attract people who have an interest in contributing to their community. Vacancies currently exist on the following boards and committees:

BUSINESS/ SHOPPING

Bridgeburg Station
Downtown BIA
One (1) Vacancy



BUSINESS/ SHOPPING

Crystal Beach BIA
One (1) Vacancy



FLOWERS/ BEAUTIFICATION

Communities-in-Blom
Committee
Four (4) Vacancies



CARE AND MAINTAIN

Fort Erie Cemetery
Advisory Committee
One (1) Vacancy



For more information on these boards and committees, please see By-laws establishing each of the boards/committees at the Town's website: www.forterie.on.ca under Town Hall "C" for "Committees".

We look forward to receiving your application by **Wednesday, March 6, 2013 by 4:00 p.m.** Applications are available:

- On the Town's website www.forterie.on.ca under Public Notices – Board and Committees Vacancies, or from the Clerk's Office.
- Or you can submit a letter setting out relevant background information.

Submissions will be accepted by the Clerk via:

1. Email: clerk@forterie.on.ca
2. Mail: Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6
3. Hand delivery to the Customer Service Desk, Town Hall
4. Fax: 905-871-4022

Cheryl Watson, Legislative Assistant, welcomes enquiries at 905-871-1600 ext. 2212 or email: cwatson@forterie.on.ca

This information is being collected pursuant to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to select persons for appointments to Town of Fort Erie boards and committees. A public open ballot process is used when an election is required to select an appointee. The ballots are public documents.

Carolyn J. Kelt, Town Clerk, Town of Fort Erie

QUOTATION 02-2013

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting submissions from interested bidders to provide any and all labour, materials and equipment necessary to provide:

ELECTRICAL SERVICES - REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

Sealed bidders are asked to Purchase will be received by the **Customer Service UNIT (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON** until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Specific project details and requirements are provided within the bid document.

Interested bidders are asked to contact Bart Menage, Manager, Purchasing and Finance Services at (905) 871-1600 ext. 2303 or alternatively at bmenage@forterie.on.ca to make suitable arrangements to pick up the quotation document.

The lowest of any submission not necessarily accepted.

Infrastructure Services Facilities Maintenance

QUOTATION 03-2013

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting submissions from interested bidders to provide any and all labour, materials and equipment necessary to provide:

MECHANICAL SERVICES - REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

Sealed submission clearly addressed to Purchasing will be received by the **Customer Service UNIT (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON** until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Specific project details and requirements are provided within the bid document.

Interested bidders are asked to contact Bart Menage, Manager, Purchasing and Finance Services at (905) 871-1600 ext. 2303 or alternatively at bmenage@forterie.on.ca to make suitable arrangements to pick up the quotation document.

The lowest of any submission not necessarily accepted.

Infrastructure Services Facilities Maintenance

QUOTATION 04-2013

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting submissions from interested bidders to provide any and all labour, materials and equipment necessary to provide:

PLUMBING SERVICES - REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

Sealed submission clearly addressed to Purchasing will be received by the **Customer Service UNIT (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON** until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Specific project details and requirements are provided within the bid document.

Interested bidders are asked to contact Bart Menage, Manager, Purchasing and Finance Services at (905) 871-1600 ext. 2303 or alternatively at bmenage@forterie.on.ca to make suitable arrangements to pick up the quotation document.

The lowest of any submission not necessarily accepted.

Infrastructure Services Facilities Maintenance

QUOTATION 05-2013

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting submissions from interested bidders to provide any and all labour, materials and equipment necessary to provide:

EQUIPMENT RENTAL SERVICES

Sealed submission clearly addressed to Purchasing will be received by the **Customer Service UNIT (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON** until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

MARCH 7, 2013

Specific project details and requirements are provided within the bid document.

Interested bidders are asked to contact Bart Menage, Manager, Purchasing and Finance Services at (905) 871-1600 ext. 2303 or alternatively at bmenage@forterie.on.ca to make suitable arrangements to pick up the quotation document.

The lowest of any submission not necessarily accepted.

Infrastructure Services

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6

(905) 871-1600 • Fax (905) 871-4022 • www.forterie.on.ca

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFORMATION 905-871-1600

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NOTICE TO TOWN OF FORT ERIE WATER CUSTOMERS

As part of a water billing system upgrade, customers will be receiving a new and improved water bill effective with the January 2013 billing. This bill will be mailed on or about February 15, 2013 with a due date of March 5, 2013. The new bill will include additional account and meter reading information such as:

- Payments received since last water bill;
- Adjustment charge details;
- History of previous six meter reads identified as actual or estimate reads; and
- Additional billing definitions on the reverse of the bill.

Please call 905-871-1600 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. if you have any questions.

** TAX NOTICE **

TOWN OF FORT ERIE 2013 INTERIM TAXES FOR ALL PROPERTY CLASSES

FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013

For further information regarding payment of taxes, please refer to the back of your tax bill.

2013 interim tax bills were mailed on February 7, 2013

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Monthly payment plans by pre-authorized bank withdrawal are available for accounts with past due taxes and current year taxes. For information contact: Town of Fort Erie at 905-871-1600

Gillian Corney, Manager of Revenue & Collections

HEY STUDENTS! LOOKING FOR SUMMER WORK?

The Corporation is now accepting applications for **summer student employment opportunities** in parks/cemeteries; facilities; roads; horticulture; museums and engineering. Work schedules may include weekends and holidays. Some positions require a valid, Class G drivers' license. Further details are available at www.town.forterie.ca. Go to "Town Hall", scroll down and click on "Employment Opportunities".

Returning students MUST apply. Application forms are available on-line and at Town Hall. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2013**. The Town of Fort Erie is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation is available to candidates upon request.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/OPEN HOUSE

FOR THE 2013-2018 MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

The 2013-2018 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines the Town of Fort Erie's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. This plan highlights the achievements of the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee (A.A.C.) and the steps being put in place to help make Ontario fully accessible by 2025.

In order to obtain public feedback on the Plan, the Town of Fort Erie is hosting two public consultations, in an open house format, as well as making the Plan available on the Town's web-site and in hard copy at Town Hall. If you are a person with a disability, a caregiver, a family member, a friend or would just like to participate, please mark your calendar for:

DATE: **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

TIME: **2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.**

PLACE: **TOWN HALL ATRIUM, 1 MUNICIPAL CENTRE DRIVE, FORT ERIE**

Transit representatives will also be available and showcase a new accessible bus.

If you require any accommodations in order to attend and participate, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made by contacting Bev Bradnam at 905-871-1600 ext. 2201 or by e-mail at: bbradnam@forterie.on.ca

WE'RE RECRUITING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Few jobs offer you the opportunity to save a life. But as a volunteer firefighter, you could be called upon to do it a moment's notice. That's why we need people with courage, determination and a strong desire to help others. Because this job is so important, we make sure all of our volunteer firefighters are expertly trained and properly equipped.

So if you want to do something important for your community and are willing to take on the challenge, come down to the fire hall and talk to us. And for your efforts, you may receive the best reward any job can offer.

Want to know more? Visit www.town.forterie.ca under Town Services, Employment Opportunities. You'll find information about the recruitment process, qualifications, an application form and instructions. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2013**.





Chris Gangarossa, a 16-year-old from Fort Erie, recently represented Ontario and all of Canada in Austin, Texas for his skills as an offensive lineman. He is seen here with his offensive line coach, Jim Rion.

Gangarossa part of big win for Ontario

Fort Erie's Chris Gangarossa was part of the Ontario Football Alliance under-17 Selects that beat Team USA during a tournament in Texas this month.

Gangarossa, who attends the Niagara Academy of Sports in Vineland, was selected by Team Ontario in December and started an intense two-month training program in preparation for the game.

The six-foot-five, 280-pound offensive lineman trained with NAS classmate Alex Casella and former CFLer Sandy Annunziata (also of Fort Erie),

and it scored in a starting role with the provincial squad.

Ontario scored first against the U.S. in Austin, Tex., and hung on for a 20-19 win. Gangarossa is being recruited by two high schools in western New York.

There were other players with Niagara ties on both the U17 and 19 rosters.

Kicker Michael Turbutt, of Grimsby, played on the U17 team, while kicker Michael Damagala (St. Catharines) and offensive lineman Eric Denis (Welland) both suited up for the U19 team.

UNCLE SAM'S BINGO
Fri, Feb 22nd at 9:30pm
Regular Games
\$1000
Letters!
(905) 871-3377

Brick to half a holiday

This is a brick to the government. If you're going to create a holiday like Family Day or any other for that matter, should it not be mandatory that all businesses are closed? I really can't enjoy the holiday, if I'm stuck at work.

Bouquet to greenhouse employee

This is a bouquet to a woman who works at a greenhouse in Ridgeway, who was extremely helpful when my car broke down in their parking lot earlier this month. She made several phone calls for me and helped keep me calm during the whole ordeal. Thanks so much.

Bouquet to community support

I'd like to send a bouquet to everyone who plans to attend the annual fundraiser for Alivia's Rainbow's, this Saturday at the Leisureplex. The event raised over \$33,000 for Niagara families with sick children last year and this time around, it would be great to see the organizers bring in around \$40,000 for this great but unfortunate cause.

BRICKS & Bouquets

J & R AUTOMOTIVE
For all of your auto repair & detailing needs!
52 Dufferin St., Fort Erie
289-320-9887

Brick to account hackers

This is a brick to whoever is involved with attempting to violate people's bank accounts. There was a recent wave of this in Fort Erie on the long weekend and I know it isn't just here this type of stuff happens, but anyone who is tied to this type of activity to take a long look in the mirror.

Bouquet to politicians who disclose decisions

There are a couple of decisions and ongoing issues in the local political arena that many constituents wish they knew more about. What I find unusual is that the councillors who opposed these decisions aren't the ones that used the word 'transparency' more than a dozen times in their campaign speeches.

Brick to people who have nothing else to do

There's nothing wrong with being involved in local issues and holding politicians accountable for their decisions, but when it's the only thing that gets you out of bed in the morning, you need to re-evaluate their priorities in your life.

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Fort Erie
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Maidens making strides in concussion recovery

It's possible Jarrod Maidens could miss the entire 2012-13 hockey season because of a concussion, but the 18-year-old from Ridgeway is making progress in his recovery.

Maidens is expected to join the Owen Sound Attack as part of his ongoing recovery plan for post-concussion syndrome.

"I'm not even thinking about the hockey right now,

I'm just thinking about Jarrod," Attack coach Greg Ireland told QMI Agency late last month. "I don't want the fans to get unrealistic expectations here. He may not be back (playing) this year."

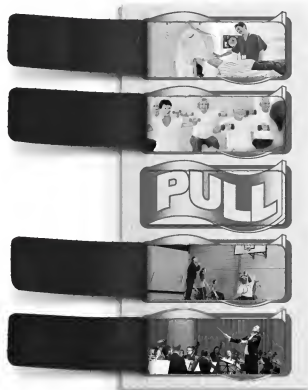
The Ottawa Senators draft pick hasn't played since suffering a concussion in November, 2011. He's been working with the NHL team's doctors and trainers for several months in hopes of get-

ting back on the ice. Maidens will continue his rehab under the direction of Attack trainer Andy Brown.

"We're going to follow the same direction set for him by Ottawa and we'll take it a

day at a time," Ireland said.

"If there is any change in it, it will come from (Ottawa). He's been on the ice already several times, taking part in drills. By himself, not with the team."



EVERY WINDOW OPENS A DOOR.

Last year, Charity Tickets (also known as Break Open tickets and Nevadas) provided **\$42 million of vital funding to over 6,500 Ontario charities** supporting special needs programs for children, women's shelters, seniors' programs, medical equipment, the arts, health promotion, youth sports, and so much more. Thanks to your continued support, we can ensure that when our communities need assistance, all doors remain open. Learn more at www.charitablegaming.com/charitytickets.

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7th Annual

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Anniversaries

Anniversaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary!
Ron and Linda HuffmanFebruary 25th, 2013
With love from your children.

Obituaries

Obituaries

BARRETT, Anna (nee Follick) - Peacefully at Garrison Place Fort Erie on Wednesday February 13th, 2013 in her 84th year. Beloved wife of the late George Barrett. Predeceased by her eldest son Dennis. Survived by her son Wayne (Susan) Barrett. Adored grandmother Shawn, Ward, Kim, Wade, Brad, Eric and Noel and numerous grandchildren. Also survived by her brother-in-law Don (Joan) Barrett and many nieces and nephews. Anna was a long time member of the Central Avenue United Church. Anna enjoyed traveling, woolen and cards. A special thank you to Dr. Gleeson and the staff at Garrison Place for making her final years as enjoyable and comfortable as possible. A celebration of her life will be held in the future. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES** 905-894-0120.

WEIR, Julie - Julie passed away at the Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie on Sunday February 10th, 2013 in her 57th year. Reunited with the love of her life, her late husband Tom. Cherished sister of Carol Ann (Al) Sanford, Bursley (Al) Buyers and Randy (Trish) Buyers. Cherished daughter in law of Thomas Weir, and sister in law of Stewart (Kathy) Weir. Also survived by her nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and many wonderful friends. Predeceased by her brother Michael and mother in law Catherine. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family requests friends on Thursday February 14th from 1-3 pm. Prayers followed visitation. Funeral Mass was held at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church on Friday morning at 10:30 am. Cremation followed. If so desired, donations to the Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family.

yourlifemoments.ca

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1-877-750-5054
 Fax: 1-866-485-8461
 e-mail: obituaries@yourlifemoments.ca

All other moments call:
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In Memoriams

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In Memoriams

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Planning

Pre-arranging a funeral service can be as simple as providing the vital statistics needed for the government, or as involved as arranging and paying for all of the arrangements.

I would be happy to discuss with you all of the options available. Whether you are simply curious, interested in pre-arranging, or have arrangements elsewhere and are considering transferring them, I am available to speak with you.

Darren Flagg

1105 Benner Rd., Fort Erie
 (905) 871-0444

www.bennerfuneralservices.com

DOUGLAS M. MILLER
 October 6th, 1941 - February 13th, 2008

Five years ago we said our sad goodbye to a loving Husband, Father, and Grandfather.

Our love for you to this day remains heavy in our hearts.
 Love always Sharon, Jerry, and Curtis.



Gord Cowie
 In memory of my son and my husband
Gord Cowie (February 26, 2005)
Don Page (February 16, 2010)
 When my tomorrow starts without you,
 We are not far apart.
 Every time I think of you
 You are right here in my heart.
 Elizabeth

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NHL star and others provide memorable day for boy

Dan Dakin
CMI Agency Niagara

He was shy at first, but then came the smile.

It's the smile that makes everyone else smile, too.

Standing there in front of little Rowan Langille was the guy whose name is on his favourite hockey stick.

The guy who he watches playing his favourite sport on television. The guy who is easily his favourite player in the NHL.

Sidney Crosby crouched down to be at eye level with the four-year-old boy fighting cancer that started in his brain and has spread to his spine and the two smiled.

It was a special moment for everyone in the room.

"We've got some real Penguins here," Crosby said as he looked at Rowan and his three siblings - all of whom were wearing Pittsburgh ball caps or had some piece of Penguins gear on them.

"What do you think Rowan, should I sign their stuff, too?" Crosby asked with a laugh.

The private meet and great with Sid the Kid was the highlight of a memorable day for the St. Catharines boy and his family.

"It meant a lot," said Rowan's mother Ann Langille, who along with her husband Shawn has been dealing with her son's disease since he was 18 months old. "He had a huge smile on his face. It was wonderful."

Knowing Pittsburgh was the NHL team of choice in the Langille household, family friend and Niagara real estate agent Karl Regier put the call out looking for tickets to be donated to Sunday's game between the Penguins and Sabres in Buffalo.

Modern Landfill and Walker Industries both offered up their 10 season tickets. Niagara Classic



Sidney Crosby signs an autograph for Rowan Langille, from St. Catharines.

Transport donated a limousine bus for the day and Boston Pizza threw in dinner for the group when they returned to St. Catharines.

But to make things a bit more special for the terminally ill Rowan and his family, the St. Catharines Standard contacted the media relations staffs for the Penguins and Sabres to see if a personal meeting might be an option.

Though Crosby typically never meets fans before a game - especially an afternoon game - he read Rowan's story and wanted to meet him. There wasn't enough time for a post-game meeting, so he made an exception and spent 10 minutes with the family Sunday morning at First Niagara Center in Buffalo.

Rowan's father Shawn said his son is a true Crosby fanatic.

"Sometimes you pick favourites and drop favourites, but he has stuck with him," Shawn said. "That's his player."

Adding to the day, the crew from the Niagara office of Peninsula Towing and the Department of Sport Management Alumni Advisory Board at Brock University donated enough money to pay for the family's breakfast after the meeting, as well as snacks and souvenirs at the game.

Once the game started,

Sabres staff delivered a puck signed earlier in the day by goalie Ryan Miller and Buffalo mascot Sabretooth stopped by for a visit.

For Rowan, sister Jocelyn, 12, and brothers Nathan and Logan, 10 and seven, respectively, it was an unforgettable day.

"He was having a good time - he was laughing, smiling and goofing around," Shawn Langille said. "He had a good day, which is great."

At times, when the pain in his back got to be too much, Rowan simply wanted his dad to pull him out of his wheelchair and hold him.

"I do everything I can to get him comfortable," Shawn said.

When the tumour moved from Rowan's brain to his spine and began to grow, it crushed his spinal cord. After having surgery five weeks ago he was given less than a 50% chance of ever walking again, and doctors told Shawn and Ann that worst-case scenario could be that their son would be dead in three weeks.

Just like the green rubber wristbands are telling him to do, Rowan keeps fighting.

"To see his smiling face today was great," said Shawn. "We're trying just to keep him happy and occupied... we're trying to do the most we can to have fun with him."

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